

**Upgradation of Telecommunication in Rural Areas of Maharashtra**

184. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated comprehensive action plan for developing telecommunication in rural areas, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details of physical and financial targets for the current year and Ninth Plans Period State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(c) the reasons for inefficient and ineffective telecommunication rural areas in Maharashtra; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to *strengthen, expand and upgrade* communication in rural Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The circle-wise details for physical and financial targets for the current year and the 9th Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed statement (*See below*).

(c) The telecommunication facilities in rural areas of Maharashtra are generally *satisfactory*. However, irregular supply of electricity and limited availability of manpower are the main constraints in providing effective telecom services in the rural areas of Maharashtra state.

(d) Following steps are being taken to *strengthen, expand and upgrade telecommunication in rural Maharashtra*:

- All villages are planned to be provided with telecom facilities by march 2002.
- All exchanges are planned to be provided with reliable transmission media by March 2002.
- *Phasing out of old switching equipment.*
- Induction of new technologies like WLL, CDOT TDMA/PMP and Setellite.
- Department has planned to replace faulty MARR VPTs.

**Statement***Physical and Financial Targets for Rural Areas*

Circles	VPT Target for the year 2000-2001	VPT Target for the 9th Five year Plan	Funds for current year in Crores	Funds for 9th Five year Plan (upto 2001) in Crores
Andman & Nicobar	8	171	5.2	30.51
Andhra Pradesh	0	8188	132.58	444.7
Assam	5000	14360	33.52	85.77
Bihar	24651	63639	81.64	295.54
Gujarat	0	4202	223.89	519.49
Haryana	4	340	94.71	262.49
Himachal Pradesh	4000	11922	77.83	296.96
Jammu & Kashmir	2000	4711	28.32	62.65
Karnataka	1265	9585	36.15	243.21
Kerala	0	0	516.62	1508.02
Madhya Pradesh	5860	36159	82.74	232.34
Maharashtra	0	16017	265.96	866.66
North-East	5110	11310	26.45	57.36
Orissa	14000	30816	33.52	149.05
Punjab	0	680	190.17	505.83
Rajasthan	0	21309	106.87	306.83
Tamil Nadu	55	953	122.52	424.75
Uttar Pradesh(E)	18000	52304	284.16	514
Uttar Pradesh(W)	9000	25594	90.15	255.37
West Bengal	11000	27352	105.18	349.03
Calcutta	47	47	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100000</b>	<b>339659</b>	<b>2538.18</b>	<b>7410.56</b>